



ALASKA DEC / EPA PERFORMANCE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT



Joint Fact Sheet — October 2003

Proposed Changes to Federal Clean Water Act Funds for Alaska

Your Comments Are Needed on Proposed Changes by November 22, 2003

Why are these changes being proposed?

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are in the second year of implementing a two-year Performance Partnership Agreement. This spring, after close examination of the specific needs of Alaska's waterbodies, DEC chose to refocus its funding priorities on restoration. It will more aggressively address polluted waters in Alaska and establish a method for making waterbody decisions. This affected almost \$1 million in federal funds historically used for local monitoring, protection, stewardship, and restoration projects.

Many groups, individuals, and local governments contacted both agencies, concerned that the change in funding could adversely affect the health of Alaskan waters. In response to the public's concerns, EPA and DEC worked to adjust the funding of the remaining activities this year. **Your comments are requested on this revised proposal.**

How is the money being spent?

Of the nearly \$4.5 million that DEC receives in federal Clean Water Act funds, only \$964,000 of proposed funds for the state fiscal year (July 1, 2003—June 30, 2004) are affected by the following changes:

- \$425,000 will be spent to develop an integrated, statewide water quality monitoring strategy, to evaluate waterbody information, to identify and prioritize necessary monitoring and restorative actions, and to develop a water information database. This is the first year of a two-year project to establish a method for tracking the status, trends, and needs of Alaska's waters.
- \$539,000 will be allotted for specific work and projects that are in the form of grants or contracts. About \$233,000 will be spent on restoring polluted waters, and nearly \$306,000 will fund protection or monitoring activities on waters that are not considered polluted, partly through a public call for proposals this fall.

What is the ADEC/EPA Performance Partnership Agreement?

The Performance Partnership Agreement (PPA) between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) decides how the state will use federal funding under the Clean Water Act to accomplish priority work in Alaska. A negotiated two-year work plan is part of the PPA.

The funds are awarded annually through a Performance Partnership Grant. You can find the latest 2004 PPA work plan on EPA's Alaska Operations Office Web page at:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/Homepage.NSF/webpage/Alaska's+Environment>



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PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
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We invite your comments on:

- the revised proposal to refocus funds that were traditionally awarded as grants for local protection, stewardship, monitoring, and restoration.
- the importance of funding stewardship activities through local governments and citizen groups.
- the importance of restoring polluted waters versus protecting unpolluted waters.

What happens after the comment period?

After the public comment period, EPA has 30 days to decide what, if any, changes are needed. EPA will notify DEC as soon as possible of any projects currently under way that will be affected by public comment. Then, if necessary, DEC will submit a revised work plan and budget to EPA, reflecting the final agreement between the agencies.

PLEASE SEND YOUR WRITTEN COMMENTS, postmarked by November 22, 2003 to:

Chris Meade

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